BLUE BIRD

R11SZ

ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE: JUNE 23, 2011
REVISION DATE: AUGUST 10, 2011

TO: U.S. DEALERS

SUBJECT: RECALL R11SZ BRAKE ABS MALFUNCTION INDICATOR LIGHT NONCOMPLIANCE

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that certain 2007 through 2011 model year "Vision" conventional model school buses manufactured from October 23, 2006 through December 09, 2009 fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 105 "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" Section 5.3.1for buses equipped with hydraulic brakes and (FMVSS) 121 "Air Brake Systems" Section 5.1.6.2 for buses equipped with air brakes.

On the subject buses, the dash instrument panel ABS malfunction indicator light does not illuminate when the main ABS module is disconnected. In the event the ABS circuit is disconnected from the main ABS module, the bus operator would be unaware of the failure of the ABS braking system and the associated nonfunctioning ABS braking which could increase the risk of a crash in certain circumstances and could potentially result in property damage and/or personal injury.

On buses manufactured with hydraulic brakes and equipped with the cab mounted (behind the PDU cover) "D" version of the Wabco hydraulic brake ABS module the main wiring circuit must be rewired. Buses with Type "D" Wabco ABS modules were manufactured from November 02, 2006 through December 17, 2008. See attached R11SZ instructions modification procedures for buses equipped with Type "D" ABS modules.

Note: The instrument panel on buses equipped with Type "D" Wabco ABS modules **will not** be reprogrammed.

A population of air brake buses manufactured from October 23, 2006 through February 23, 2007 has also been identified that will need the wiring circuit update performed instead of reprogramming the dash. A list of your units is also attached. These units will also have Warranty claims filed under R11SZ Type D since the remedy is the same.

Note: The instrument panel on these air brake buses **will not** be reprogrammed.

All other buses subject to Recall R11SZ will require the Dealer to reprogram the Stoneridge instrument panel with the appropriate software as required. The software for reprogramming the dash will be available on the Blue Bird Customer Service website within the next 30 days. See attached R11SZ instructions for Stoneridge instrument panel reprogramming procedures. **Owners are being directed to contact their dealer to have Recall R11SZ performed.**

We have included an updated owner list of units requiring reprogramming.

Labor time to rewire the type "D" ABS module on subject buses equipped with hydraulic brakes and manufactured from November 02, 2006 through December 17, 2008 is 0.2 hours per bus.

Labor time to rewire the air brake modules on subject buses equipped with air brakes and manufactured from October 23, 2006 through February 23, 2007 is 0.2 hours per bus. **Note: Claims for this population of air brake buses are also to be filed under R11SZ Type D.**

Labor time to install the appropriate software on all other buses is 0.2 hours per bus.

Dealers may submit campaign claims in Blue Bird iWarranty. **Claims for buses with Type D Wabco ECUs will be filed under campaign "R11SZ Type D" in iWarranty.**

If our records indicate affected buses were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected buses is enclosed. **Dealers should verify correct owners and assure that complete mailing addresses are provided for each listed vehicle.**

If you have in your possession or have sold a bus that was purchased from another dealer that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Dealers are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

William P. Coleman

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Corporation

BLUE BIRD

R11SZ

June 23, 2011

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that certain 2007 through 2011 model year "Vision" model conventional school and non-school buses manufactured from October 23, 2006 through December 09, 2009 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS No. 105) "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" for buses equipped with hydraulic brakes and (FMVSS No. 121) "Air Brake System" for buses equipped with air brakes.

On the subject buses, the dash instrument panel ABS malfunction indicator light does not illuminate when the ABS circuit is disconnected at the main ABS module. In the event the ABS circuit is disconnected from the main ABS module, the bus operator would be unaware of the failure of the ABS braking system and the associated nonfunctioning ABS braking, which could increase the risk of a crash in certain circumstances and could potentially result in property damage and/or personal injury. Parts and labor required to complete Recall R11SZ will be provided at no cost to you.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed cover sheet(s). The cover sheets will indicate the type of ABS module installed on the buses listed.

If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the cover sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

If your bus is equipped with hydraulic brakes and was manufactured between November 02, 2006 and December 17, 2008 and equipped with the Wabco Type "D" ABS module you will need to have the ABS module wiring circuit only modified according to the attached recall instructions. These buses will not need to be reprogrammed. You may contact your Blue Bird dealer to have this modification performed or you may perform this modification yourself. You may also have this modification performed by a reputable local repair facility convenient to you. A qualified technician must perform the wiring circuit modification.

Reimbursement for labor for performing the wiring modification on the Wabco Type D ECU may be obtained by completing the **"Completed Reply/Labor Reimbursement"** sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid envelope.

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021

If your bus is equipped with air brakes or equipped with hydraulic brakes **and not** manufactured within the dates for buses equipped with Wabco Type D ECU's, you will need to schedule an appointment with your dealer to have the dash instrument panel reprogrammed. Your Blue Bird dealer must perform the software update. The software needed to correct this condition on these buses is anticipated to be available to your Blue Bird dealer within the next 30 days. Reprogramming the dash instrument panel will be performed by your Blue Bird dealer at no charge to you. A qualified technician must perform the software update.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236
TTY 1-800-424-9153

Or, go to: HTTP:/WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Corporation

BLUE BIRD

Stoneridge Instrument Cluster ABS Malfunction Indicator Noncompliance RECALL

Models Affected: 2007-2011 Model Year "Vision" Buses

R 1 1 S Z

R E C A L L C A M P A I G N

ISSUE

Under certain conditions the anti-lock brake (ABS) malfunction indicator may not illuminate when required.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

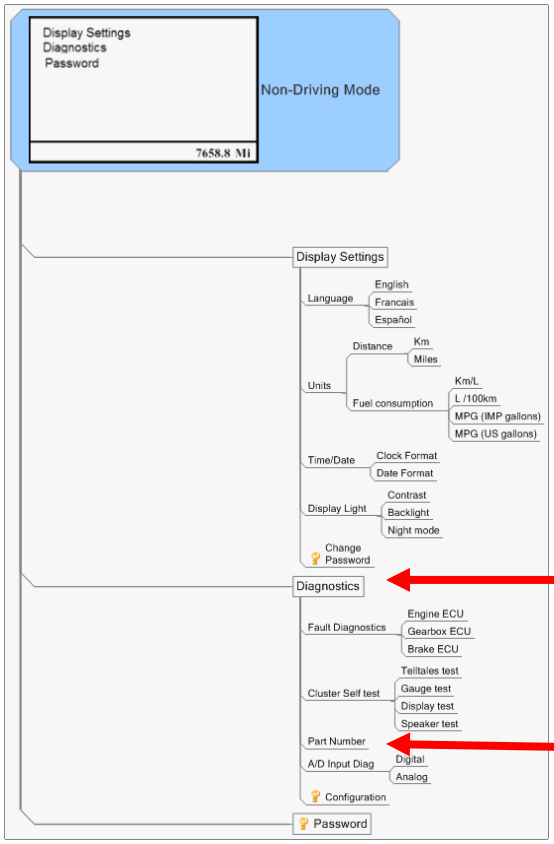
Affected units will require corrective action based on instrumentation software version and ABS control module type. Complete the appropriate corrective action procedure below.

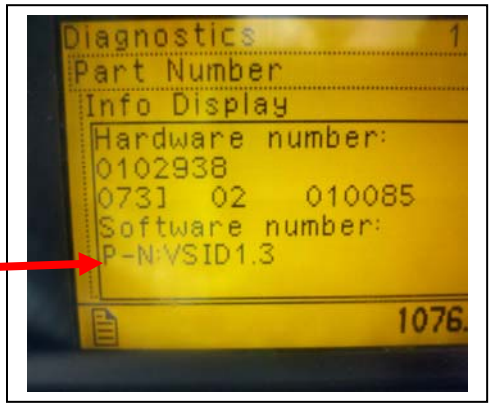
SOFTWARE UPDATE PROCEDURE

WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local, and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing these procedures. NOTE: Software update procedure is NOT applicable to buses with cab mounted "D" version ABS ECU's.

Step 1. Set the bus parking brake.

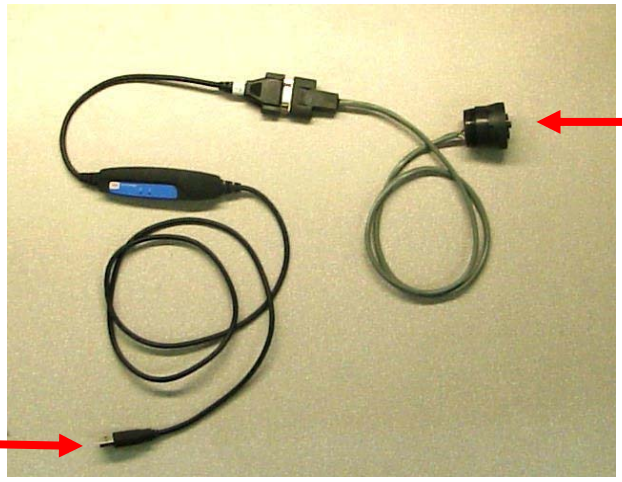
Step 2. Using steering column stalk switch and instrument cluster diagnostics menu verify current software version displayed under part number menu.





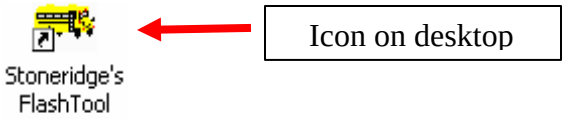
Step 3. On units with version 1.4 or lower software installed flash the instrument cluster with version 4.11 software provided. On units with version 1.5 or higher installed flash the instrument cluster with version 4.1 software provided.

Step 4. Connect Kvaser CAN interface cables (supplied in kit 00114694) to the computers USB port and the Bus diagnostic connector located below the driver side dash area.



Step 5. Once everything is connected, turn ignition switch on.

Step 6. Run the Flash Tool application by double clicking the Flash Tool icon on your desktop.



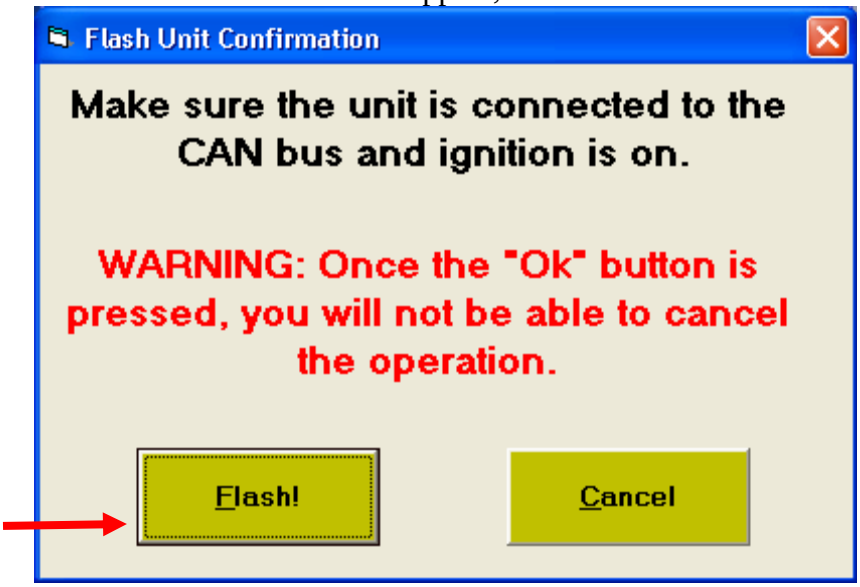
Step 7. You will see the following screen (main window):

Step 8. Click on “Open Hex File…” button

a. Select the appropriate software version hex file supplied.

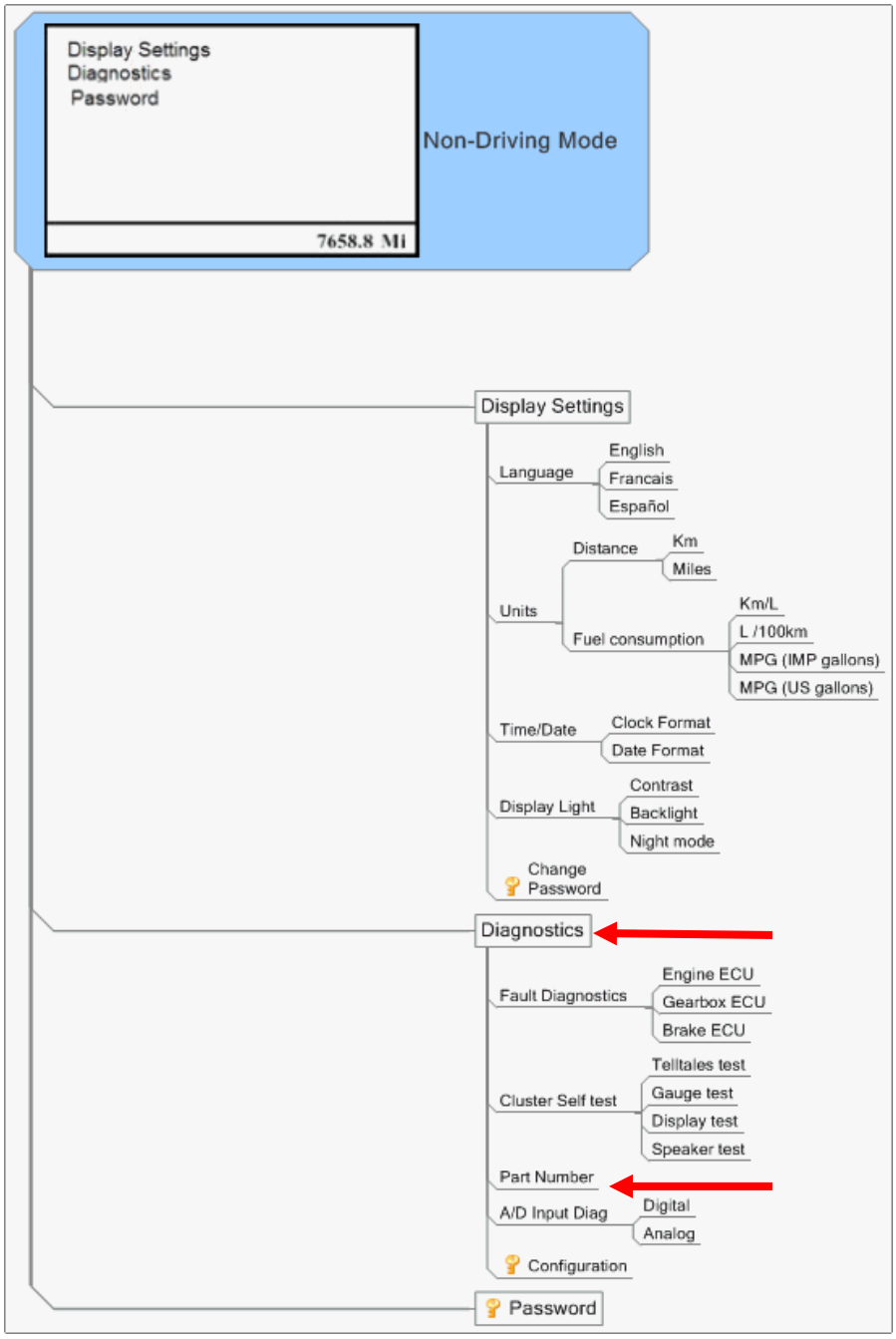
Step 9. Click on “Flash!” button

a. A confirmation window will appear, click on “Flash!” button

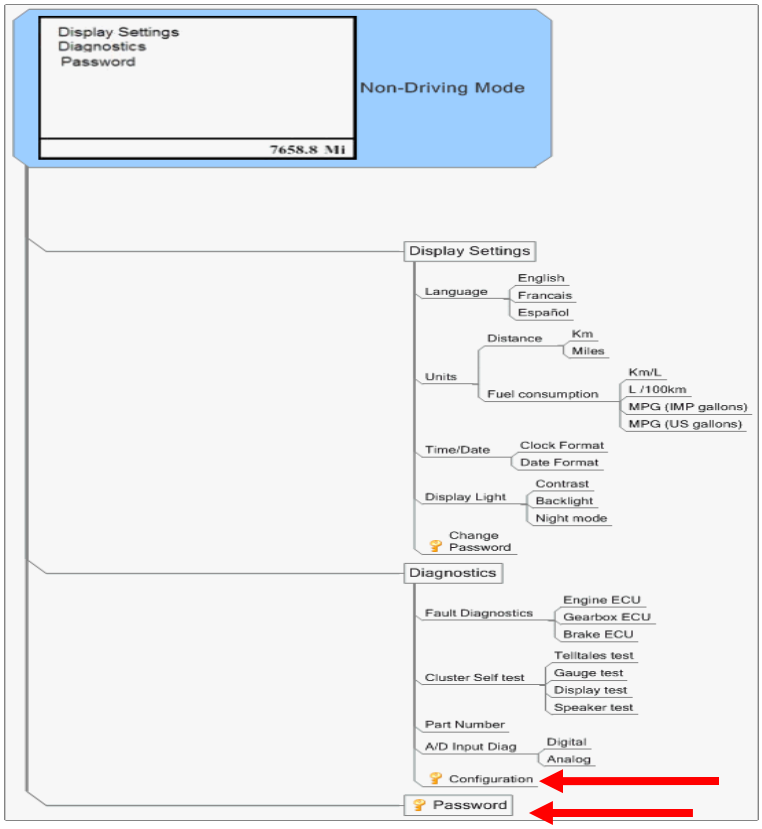

Flash Unit Confirmation
Make sure the unit is connected to the CAN bus and ignition is on.
WARNING: Once the "Ok" button is pressed, you will not be able to cancel the operation.
Flash!
Cancel

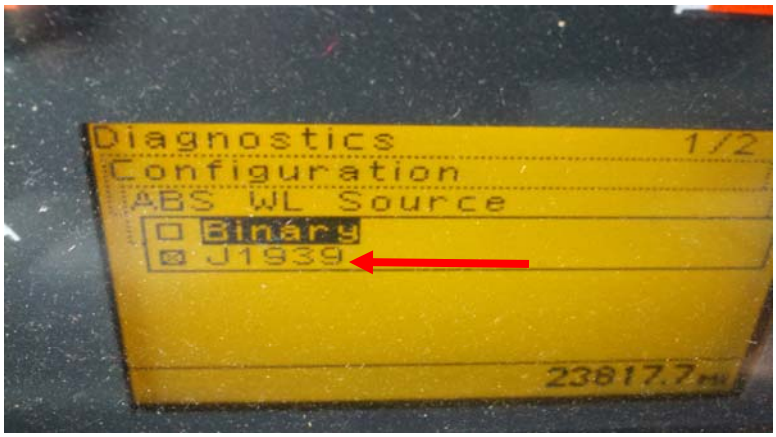
Step 10. Wait for the cluster unit to automatically restart. Once the flash process has started there is no way to abort. The status screen will display “passed Operation successful!” when process is complete. DO NOT switch ignition off while in process.

Step 11. Using steering column stalk switch and instrument cluster diagnostics menu verify software version displayed under part number menu is updated version level you installed.



Step 12. Using steering column stalk switch and instrument cluster configuration menu verify the "ABS WL Source" is set for "J1939". Access to the configuration option is protected and requires the user to provide the access code via the "**Password"** option to enable it. Enter the password "2290" first. It is necessary to execute an ignition cycle (OFF/ON), after revising desired parameters, for EE parameter changes to take effect.



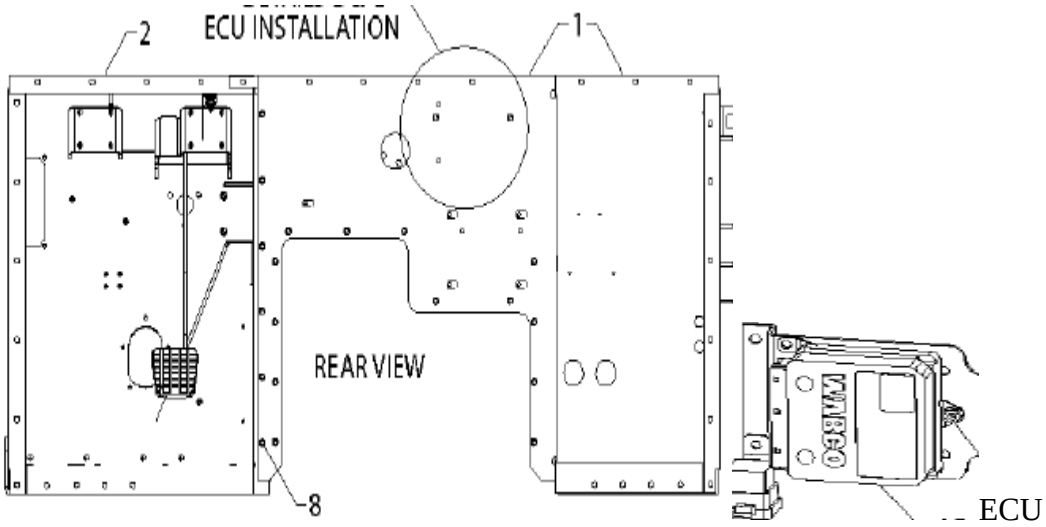


Step 13. Instrument cluster software update is complete.

WIRING UPDATE PROCEDURE

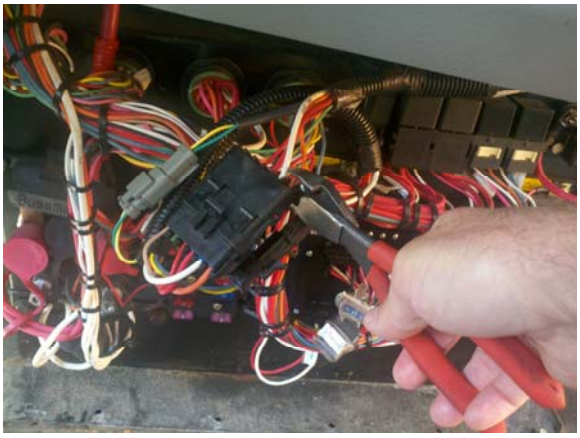
WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, And Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing these procedures. Observe all safety precautions to secure the bus from rolling. NOTE: Wiring update procedure is ONLY applicable to buses with cab mounted "D" version ABS ECU's.

1. Park the bus on a level surface, apply parking brakes, turn off engine and remove keys. Chock wheels.
2. Disconnect batteries – Note; When disconnecting the batteries, remove the negative cable first.
3. Remove chassis Power Distribution Unit (PDU) cover by unscrewing two thumb screws. The thumb screws are located at the top of each side of the cover.



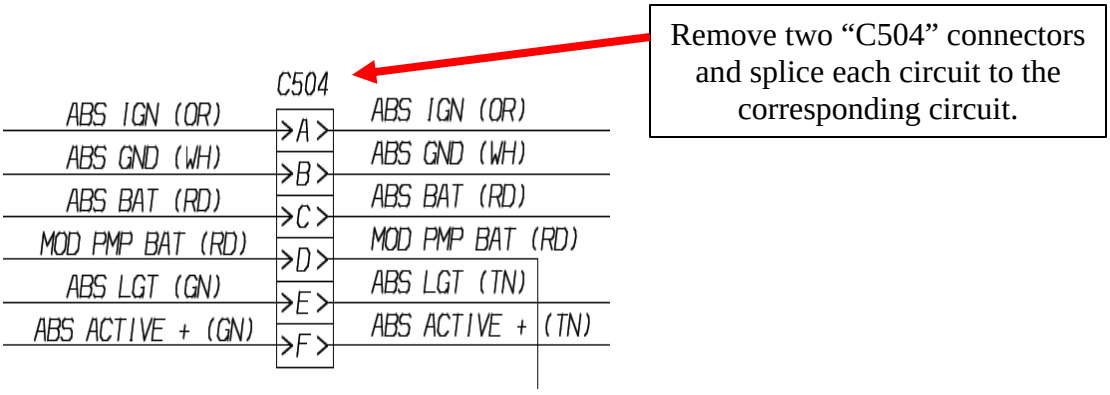
WIRING UPDATE PROCEDURE

4. Locate connector C504 in PDU (detail shown below). Cut and remove connector C504 from the PDU and ABS harness.

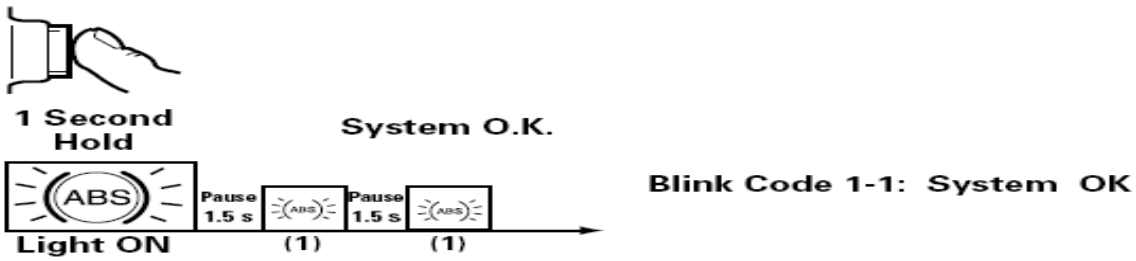


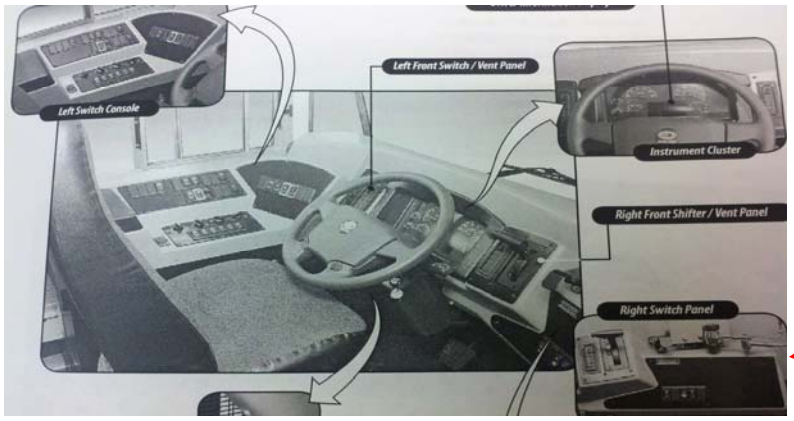
5. Splice each circuit from previous step to the corresponding circuit. Use appropriate terminal as listed below.

   "ABS LGT", "ABS ACTIVE", circuit use terminal # 00005840.
   "ABS GND", "ABS BATT", "MOD PUMP BATT", circuit use terminal # 0036508.
   "ABS IGN" circuit use terminal # 00036507.



6. Wiring update procedure is complete.





8. Blink code 1-1 indicates system OK and no fault codes. Any other blink code indicates a fault code. If any fault code exists please refer to maintenance manual 39 included in your Vision service manual.

9. ABS wiring update procedure is complete.

PARTS

PART NUMBER	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
00036507	**1**	**Terminal, Butt Conn, 14-16 GA, Sealed**
00036508	**3**	**Terminal, Butt Conn, 10-12 GA, Sealed**
00005840	**2**	**Terminal, Butt Conn, 18-22 GA, Sealed**